



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

March 31, 2009

### UKRAINE

#### **USAID Maternal and Infant Health Project and UNICEF to Work Together in Perinatal Care in Four Oblasts**

Mr. Jeremy Hartley, the UNICEF representative in Ukraine, and Dr. Helene Lefevre-Cholay, USAID's Maternal and Infant Health Project (MIHP) Director signed a Memorandum of Understanding on March 20, to implement together effective perinatal services in Vinnytsya, Zhytomyr, Poltava and Kyiv Oblasts. UNICEF will support purchasing basic life-saving equipment for newborns for maternal and child health care facilities in the mentioned oblasts, while MIHP experts will train health care professionals in evidence-based birthing practices. In addition, a training center will be established to disseminate these practices throughout the oblasts. Over the 1.5-year-life-of-project, effective perinatal technology will cover up to 70 per cent of births in the mentioned oblasts.



*USAID's Maternal and Infant Health Project Director Dr. Helene Lefevre-Cholay and Jeremy Hartley the UNICEF representative in Ukraine sign MOU.*

#### **USAID Awards \$20 Million Project to Improve Business and Investment Climate**

On March 16, USAID awarded a new \$20 million *Local Investment and National Competitiveness (LINC)* contract to Chemonics Interna-

tional. The LINC program is a three-year initiative which seeks to achieve the U.S. Government's priorities for Ukraine - fostering broad-based, sustainable growth and Euro-Atlantic integration. Working hand-in-hand with local and national government authorities, local industries, and potential investors, LINC will enhance Ukraine's ability to compete internationally. LINC will accelerate national-level reforms, as well as build models of sub-national partnership that attract investment and provide efficient services to businesses. LINC will also assist local and regional governmental bodies of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) to undertake improvements to the business and investment environment. This will enhance the productivity of industries and enterprises as well as diversify and reorient Crimean goods and services into more competitive markets.

#### **CMP Experts Share Experience at Asset Managers' Crisis Conference**

"What the investment community can do to make the best out of hard times" was the keynote of most of the presentations made at a conference organized by the *Ukrainian Association of Investment Businesses (UAIB)* on asset management in a crisis environment. Regulators, investment bankers, pension fund representatives, and PR experts shared their experience and thoughts on how best to overcome the economic crisis in Ukraine.

UAIB Head Dmytro Leonov opened the conference stressing that the market should use the opportunity to work more in the interest of investors. Securities and Stock Market State Commissioner Serhiy Biriuk called on asset managers to develop new sound financial instruments and to prepare the ground for the future market recovery.

Pension industry speakers representing the regulatory authorities and the pension funds observed that it is essential for the industry to work together for the Ukrainian pension sector to introduce pensions under Pillar II within the next few years.

USAID's *Capital Markets Project* was represented by two market experts John Crowley and Jack Barbanel. Mr. Crowley delivered a presentation on strategies for investment portfolio management in a crisis environment, and Mr. Barbanel stressed the role of disclosure during a crisis when investors are particularly intent on limiting their risks.

### **Ukrainian and International Experts Discuss Lobbying Issues in Ukraine**

On February 26, the Ministry of Justice, with the support of USAID's *Parliamentary Development Program II (PDP-II)* and the Fulbright Program Office in Ukraine, held a roundtable "Lobbying in Ukraine and Abroad: Experience, Problems and Prospects."



*Mykola Onischuk (right), Minister of Justice of Ukraine and roundtable moderator Myron Stachiw (left), Director of Fulbright Office in Ukraine.*

The roundtable was initiated to solicit public discussion of a draft concept of the law *On Lobbying* by a broader circle of civil society and experts. Minister of Justice Mykola Onischuk, Deputy Ministers Leonid Efremenko and Volodymyr Bogatyr participated as did Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine MPs Nataliya Korolevska

(Chair of the Committee on Entrepreneurship and Industry) and Volodymyr Stretovych. House of Commons of Great Britain MP and the Head of the Parliamentary group on Ukraine John Grogan spoke as well providing practical insights based on his personal experience, and Deputy Chief of the U.S. Mission to Ukraine James Pettit, addressed the participants and participated in the public discussion.

This was the first attempt of the Government of Ukraine to address the legal requirements for lobbying activities in Ukraine. Taking into consideration the complexity of the issues and different perceptions of lobbying in Ukraine, the Minister of Justice initiated a process to develop lobbying institutionally, based on a concept disseminated for broad public discussion before developing it further as a draft law.

Despite the overall positive assessment of the proposed draft concept, the discussion participants emphasized that Ukrainian society is not ready to normalize lobbyist activity in the current political and legal realities. Some of the points brought up in the debate concerned such issues as defining the scope of what legal entities should be subject to regulation, problematic legal separation of different forms of lobbying from corrupt activities, monitoring compliance if the law is approved by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, etc.

There was consensus that it was time to openly discuss the issue and the need for legal norms addressing lobbying. To ensure effective feedback between the government and business and civil society, a web portal [www.lobbying.in.ua](http://www.lobbying.in.ua) was established, where anyone can express his/her position on the institutionalization of lobbying in Ukraine.

### **USAID's Maternal and Infant Health Project Organized Training for Journalists on Effective Perinatal Practices**

On March 26, USAID's *Maternal and Infant Health Project (MIHP)* held a training for journalists on effective perinatal practices (EPP) that MIHP is implementing in the Kyiv Maternity Hospital #7. Fourteen journalists from such media outlets as Kyiv news, Your Baby, Caring for the Child, Internet site "C2C," TV channel "Era," Ukrinform, Young Ukraine, Youth of Ukraine participated in the training. During the training the journalists learned about EPP

implemented in Ukraine and visited delivery rooms and the postpartum department.



*Journalists visit postpartum room.*

MIHP also conducted similar trainings in Lviv, Volyn, Zhytomyr and Donetsk Oblasts. After such trainings the journalists wrote articles and produced TV stories on EEP implementation in the oblasts that helped to inform the general population on effective birthing technologies.

**USAID Regional Mission for Ukraine,  
Moldova and Belarus**

19 Nizhniy Val Street, 04071 Kyiv, Ukraine  
Tel: (380 44) 537-4600;  
Fax: (380 44) 537-4684  
<http://ukraine.usaid.gov>

## M O L D O V A

**USAID's Preventing HIV/AIDS and  
Hepatitis B&C in Moldova Project:  
Achievements and Lessons Learned**

At the end of March 2009, the Preventing HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B&C in Moldova Project (PHHP) officially closed. The project was a two-and-a-half-year \$3.8 million program.

PHHP was one of the very few USAID programs in the world to focus on the public health problems stemming from the dual threats of viral hepatitis and HIV/AIDS. PHHP assisted the Government of Moldova to improve blood safety and strengthen its laboratory capacity and epidemiological surveillance. It also promoted

sustainable changes in policies, protocols, systems and standards which ensure continued delivery of quality services to mitigate the incidence of these two diseases.

The project mobilized the community through mass media behavior change communications and voluntary counseling and testing (VCT). PHHP built both "demand" for quality services, and worked to strengthen the "supply" of such services by building the capacity of institutions, health professionals, local journalists, and NGO workers of the newly established VCT centers.

Pilot sites demonstrated and tested best practices and internationally recognized methodologies, thus gaining buy-in from local health workers. Based on the successes of the pilot sites, Ministry of Health decision-makers were more willing to stand behind larger-scale implementation and provide the necessary policy support.

The effects of this project will continue to be felt as PHHP's successes and lessons will be shared with the international health community at the 12th World Congress on Public Health, which will be held in Istanbul on April 27- May 1, 2009.

**Citizen Participation Program Urges  
People to Vote**

A youth organization, funded by the USAID *Citizen Participation Program (CPP)*, started out simultaneously from Chisinau and 10 regional centers to convince people to participate in the upcoming elections on April 5. The group, calling their activities the "Let's Go Vote" rally, will travel through approximately 40 towns and villages throughout the country up until Election Day talking with citizens about how important their votes are. The "Let's Go Vote" rally is a non-partisan activity and is not connected to any candidate or political party.

**USAID Representative Office in Moldova**

57/1 Banulescu-Bodoni Street  
ASITO Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Tel: (037322) 20-18-00  
<http://moldova.usaid.gov>